

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0674

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3909

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PINS, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING
THE PERIOD FROM MAY 13-19, 1977.

2. MAY 12: AT 1645 HRS, A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE WAS EXAMINED BY
THE BOMB SQUAD AT MONTEVIDEO 1247.

AT 0045 HRS, TWO ARMED MEN STOLE A BLACK TORINO FROM
BARTOLOME MITRE 2000.

AT 0100 HRS, AN ARMED MAN STOLE A FORD FALCON FROM A
GARAGE ON MORON 2900.

ON THE SAME DATE, LA RAZON REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF 5
PERSONS IN TWO VEHICLES ATTACKED A PROVINCIAL POLICE STATION
AT QUILMES. THE PERSONS ESCAPED AND THERE WERE NO REPORTED
INJURIES.

MAY 14: LAS PRENSA REPORTED THAT MR. ABELARDO ARCE, A LEADER
OF A TRADE UNION, WAS KIDNAPPED OFF THE STREET AT CEVALLES
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AND ESTADOS UNIDOS STREETS BY UNKNOWN PERSONS.

MAY 16: AT 2030 HRS. TWO TERRORISTS, A MAN AND A WOMAN,
WERE KILLED IN A CONFRONTATION AT J. NEWBERRY AND GUZMAN,
BOMB SQUAD ALSO RESPONDED TO THE SCENE AS THE TERRORISTS
REPORTEDLY HAD EXPLOSIVES.

ON MAY 16, LA RAZON REPORTED THAT THE CORPSES OF THREE PERSONS WERE FOUND IN A PUBLIC FIELD LOCATED NEAR FRANCO AVENUE IN WILDE. THEIR IDENTITY WAS UNKNOWN BUT APPARENTLY THEY HAD BEEN SHOT TO DEATH.

MAY 17: AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT THE MARTINEZ RR STATION. WELL INFORMED SOURCE STATED THAT THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE HAD PROBABLY BEEN PLANTED BY DISSIDENT RR WORKERS AS A RESULT OF A MAJOR REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL. SOURCE ANTICIPATED MORE OF THIS ACTIVITY.

MAY 19: AT 0320 HRS, FOUR ARMED MEN STOLE TWO RENAULTS FROM A GARAGE AT ENTRE RIOS 1866.

AT 0500 HRS, FEDERAL POLICE ANNOUNCED A GENERAL ALERT TO ALL PERSONNEL, INFORMING THEM THAT TERRORISTS HAD STOLEN TWO PICKUP TRUCKS AND THAT THESE VEHICLES MIGHT BE USED FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS.

LA RAZON REPORTED THAT A BOMB WAS PLANTED ON THE RR LINES AT THE SARANDI STATION. THE BOMB WAS SUCCESSFULLY DE-ACTIVATED BUT IT INTERRUPTED RAIL TRAFFIC FOR SEVERAL HRS.

ON THE SAME DATE, FEDERAL POLICE STATED THAT MR. ANIBAL BATISTA, DIRECTOR OF CELULOSE ARGENTINA, IN BUENOS AIRES, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 21, WAS KILLED BY FOUR TERRORISTS WHEN THE POLICE ATTEMPTED TO RESCUE HIM. THREE MEN AND ONE WOMAN, REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF THE ERP, WERE KILLED IN THIS OPERATION.

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3. RSO MET WITH MEMBERS OF ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WHO STATED THAT RECENT OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ERP HAD BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THEY FELT THE ERPS PUBLISHING AND PROPAGANDA ARM HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY CRIPPLED AS A RESULT OF THESE OPERATIONS.

4. SOURCES STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS HAD ALSO SUFFERED MAJOR PERSONNEL LOSSES OVER THE PAST YEAR AND THAT THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH OF A YEAR AGO, WHICH WAS APPROXIMATELY 5000 MEMBERS, HAD BEEN REDUCED TO BETWEEN 1000-1200 OF WHICH ONLY 300-400 CAN BE CONSIDERED TRUE COMBATANTS. APPARENTLY THE MONTONEROS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING RECRUITS AND LAUNCHING A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONDUCT A MAJOR OPERATION AGAINST THE POLICE OR MILITARY FORCES IN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. THEIR CELLS ARE ABOUT FIVE MEN IN STRENGTH AND HAVE VERY LITTLE COMMUNICATION WITH EACH OTHER. ALTHOUGH THIS HAS PROTECTED THE CELLS TO SOME DEGREE, IT HAS ALSO

RENDERED THEM INACTIVE TO OPERATE IN A COHESIVE MANNER.
SOURCES FELT THAT THE MONTONERO COMBATANT ELEMENTS WILL
IN THE FUTURE LIMIT THEMSELVES TO ATTACKS ON SOFT
TARGETS WHERE THERE IS LITTLE RISK OF THEIR
SUFFERING CASUALTIES.

5. RSO COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUAL POLICE
OFFICERS CONTINUE, THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR REDUCTION IN
BOMBING ATTACKS AND FEW REPORTED INCIDENTS OF BOMBS
BEING PLANTED IN PUBLIC PLACES. THIS MAY REPRESENT
EITHER A LOGISTICAL SHORTAGE OR A TACTICAL CHANGE.
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